

State of Utah Department of Commerce

FRANCINE GIANI Executive Director THAD LEVAR

Deputy Director

July 20, 2006

MEDIA ALERT

Commerce Lodges \$750,000 Citation against "Learning on Location "Utah Tour Operator faces fines, 300 students lose deposits and trips" (For immediate release...)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Francine Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, announced today that the Division of Consumer Protection has issued an administrative citation against Larry Webb of "Learning on Location" and "International Studentours, Inc." for violating the *Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act*. The citation alleges Mr. Webb, of Salt Lake City, took part in deceptive business practices by taking over \$400,000 from 300 individuals and not delivering on the tour contracts or returning money deposits within 30 days of the agreed terms of service.

"Larry Webb took thousands of dollars from 300 people with the promise of a complete Broadway experience in New York City," said Giani," At the last minute Mr. Webb pulled out of these contracts and left many kids hanging without hotel rooms, airfare or show tickets. Now it's Mr. Webb's turn to face the music."

The citation was submitted on July 20, 2006 and includes 300 counts with potential fines totaling \$750,000. The Division of Consumer Protection received complaints about "Learning on Location" from the following groups; Bandera High School - Lakehills, TX, Free House Dance Plus – Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Leander High School – Leander, TX, Dancing Feet Studios –Penn Laird, VA, Eureka College – Eureka, IL, Woods Cross High School and Viewmont High School, UT Stages School of Dance, Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada, El Camino High School – Sacramento, CA, Eaton Theatre Group, Lehi, UT, Okaloosa-Walton College – Niceville, FL and Waseca Adult Drama Group- Waseca, MN. There were also three individuals who purchased tours who were from Boynton Beach, FL and Tucson, AZ. A few of the groups have received partial refunds from Larry Webb but most of the groups are still pursuing deposit refunds from "Learning on Location."

For more information contact: **Jennifer Bolton**Public Information Officer (801) 530-6646 office (801) 652-8322 cell

